

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Lighting apparatus, comprising:
 - a) a solid-state area illumination light source, having:
 - i) a planar flexible substrate,
 - ii) a flexible organic light emitting diode (OLED) layer deposited on the flexible substrate, the organic light emitting diode layer including first and second electrodes for providing electrical power to the OLED layer,
 - iii) a flexible encapsulating cover covering the OLED layer, and
 - iv) first and second conductors electrically connected to the first and second electrodes, and extending beyond the encapsulating cover for making electrical contact to the first and second electrodes by an external power source, whereby the light source may be stored in a space saving planar configuration; and
 - b) a lighting fixture for removably receiving and holding the light source in a curved 3 dimensional configuration, the lighting fixture including a support for holding the light source in the curved configuration and contacts for providing electrical contact between said first and second conductors and an external power source.
2. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the curved configuration is cylindrical, spiral, or pyramidal.
3. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source defines a body portion and one or more tab portions; the first and second conductors being located on the tab portion(s).
4. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 3, wherein the tab portion(s) include an orientation feature for orienting the light source in a socket.

5. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 3, wherein the first and second conductors are located on both sides of the tab portion, whereby the light source can be inserted into a socket in either of two orientations.

6. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 5, wherein the light source defines tabs that are located at opposite edges of the substrate.

7. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second conductors are located at one or more edges of the light source.

8. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 7, wherein the first and second conductors are located at opposite edges of the light source.

9. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source emits light from one side of the flexible support and the first and second conductors are located on an opposite side.

10. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the encapsulating cover is a coated layer.

11. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the OLED layer is continuous over the substrate.

12. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source operates on standard power.

13. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 12, wherein the standard power is selected from the group consisting of 110 volt AC, 220 volt AC, 24 volt DC, 12 volt DC, and 6 volt DC.

14. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the support is transparent.

15. The lighting apparatus claimed claim 1, further comprising a transparent or translucent housing surrounding the light source.

16. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, further comprising a base adapted to be received by and make electrical contact with a standard electrical outlet.

17. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a converter connected to the first and second conductors for converting power from the external power source to a form useable by the OLED layer.

18. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 17, wherein the converter converts AC line voltage to a voltage useable by the OLED layer.

19. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, further comprising a reflector for directing light from the light source.

20. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting apparatus is a ceiling lamp.

21. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting apparatus is a table lamp

22. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting apparatus is a floor lamp

23. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible support is transparent, and light is emitted from the OLED layer through the flexible support.

24. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the encapsulating cover is transparent, and light is emitted from the OLED layer through the encapsulating cover.

25. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source emits light from only one side of the substrate and further includes a reflective layer on the other side of the substrate.

26. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source emits light from both sides of the substrate.

27. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source has a rectangular shape and the support includes clamps for holding two edges of the light source to bow the light source into a cylindrical configuration.

28. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 27, wherein the contacts are located in the clamps.

29. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source has an elongated rectangular shape and the support includes a frame and clamps for holding the light source in a spiral configuration about the frame.

30. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 29, wherein the contacts are located in the clamps.

31. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source is has the shape of a ring segment, and the support includes clamps for holding the light source in a conical configuration.

32. The lighting apparatus claimed in claim 29, wherein the contacts are located in the clamps.